

- Enroll in the short-term Disability Insurance program;
- Set up Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) for 2005 to pay out-of-pocket health care and/or dependent care expenses with before-tax dollars; and
- Add new dependents to your health plan.

For assistance, contact the DC Office of Personnel, Employee Service Center, at (202) 442-9655; the Reeves Center Benefits Office at (202) 671-1300, or visit the DCOP website at [www.dcop.dcgov](http://www.dcop.dcgov).

Swift Water Drill



Lieutenant Shelly Nicholson of Squad 3 practices a swift release technique from a tethered rescue exercise.

DC Fire/EMS Special Operations personnel participated in a swift water rescue drill at Great Falls in Montgomery County. More than 100 DC firefighters are certified in swift water rescue techniques, and the series of classes are an effort to sharpen existing skills and certify more personnel.

DCFEMS 4-1-1

Congratulations to Firefighter Richard Polish on the birth of his new son, Jacob Thomas, born August 1 weighing six pounds 12 ounces.

On Sunday, October 17, All Nation’s Baptist Church honored LaWanda Calloway/Public Safety Communications Center, Theresa Shanklin/Training Academy, and Elsie Fleming/Office of the Chief Financial Officer for Outstanding Community Service at their Women’s Day Celebration.

The Department regrets the passing of the following members:



Captain James Heckendorn (right) welcomes 105-year-old Lloyd Brown to Engine 16’s Centennial celebration. Brown, who lives in Southern Maryland, was a Franklin Square Firefighter in the ‘30s and ‘40s. Scores of Engine 16 alumni and supporters turned out for the event October 16.

- Retired Firefighter John M. Veatch passed September 8, 2004
- Retired Firefighter John Edwards, Jr. passed September 15, 2004
- Retired Firefighter Edward K. Fulk passed September 16, 2004
- Retired Firefighter Nathaniel Harrell passed September 30, 2004
- Retired Lieutenant Charles N. Lewis passed October 9, 2004
- Retired BFC Robert D. Lee passed October 19, 2004
- Retired Firefighter Edward J. Deprato passed October 27, 2004
- Retired Firefighter Raymond Sherwood passed November 4, 2004
- Retired Firefighter Colby Mercer passed November 7, 2004
- Retired EMS Paramedic Gordan R. Davis passed week of October 11, 2004

So Long To Augie the Arson Dog

Thirteen year old Augie the Arson dog passed away on November 5. Augie came to the DC Fire/EMS Department in 1994 and was retired July 2000. He was the first Accelerant Detection Canine in the DC Metropolitan Area.



BEACON

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Fire Marshal Kenneth Watts speaks during the Fire Prevention kick-off ceremony October 4.

Message from the Chief

50th Annual DC One Fund Campaign

The 50th Annual DC One Fund Campaign will kick off this month. As in years past, DC Fire & EMS is supporting this DC government employee effort to raise money for charitable organizations. The Campaign goal this year is \$1.5 million and I hope Fire/EMS will contribute more than \$100,000 towards the total.

I am proud of the individual commitment members of Fire/EMS show to the community every day. You show that commitment not just through your work, but in the personal time and money you voluntarily give to worthy organizations all year long. I encourage you to extend that commitment to the DC One Fund. A charitable donation of just \$1/week can truly mean a lot to someone in need.

Thank you for your generosity in this season of giving.

Adrian H. Thompson  
Fire/EMS Chief

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★★★ Adrian H. Thompson,  
Fire/EMS Chief  
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

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Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to [gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov](mailto:gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov). Submissions are requested no later than the third Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.

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Contact us at (202) 673-3331 or fax (202) 673-3188





DC Fire & EMS along with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Office of Educational Services, hosted the 2nd Annual Fire Safety Olympics. This program of physical competitions teaches fire safety and prevention skills to children from District recreation centers. The children, ages 5 to 14, competed in events like the "Running Gear Race," where they don firefighter PPE and run a foot race. They also tested their coordination skills in the "Bucket Brigade."

## Fire Prevention Week 2004

This year's Fire Prevention Week highlighted fire safety and fire prevention methods. The focus was on the lifesaving power of smoke detectors. Working smoke alarms double your chances of surviving a fire in the home. Residents were reminded to "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery."

Community partners such as the Home Safety Council, DC SAFEKIDS, and Serve DC's Community Emergency Response Team helped spread the word about smoke alarms. To spread the word on fire prevention safety methods, Fire/EMS Chief Thompson, Fire Marshal Kenneth Watts, other government and community leaders, and third graders from Payne Elementary School participated in the kick-off ceremony at the quarters of Engine 8 on October 4.

## Cadets are Keeping It Real

Department of Employment Services' monthly television program for teens "Keeping It Real" features our Fire Cadet Training Program in their November edition. "Keeping It

Real" airs on City Cable Channel 16 Fridays at 5:00 pm, and Saturdays at 12:00 noon and 8:00 pm.

## Training

Twenty-nine members of Recruit Class 337 and 11 members of EMT IP Class 3 graduated on Friday, September 24, in a ceremony at the Training Academy.

On September 29, 20 members of Cadet Class 10 graduated during a ceremony held at the Gallaudet University, Kellogg Conference Center. The cadet program is a joint venture between the DC Fire/EMS and the Department of Employment Services' Youth Opportunity Program.



## DC Fire/EMS Welcomes New Medical Director

On August 23, 2004, Dr. Clifford H. Turen, MD, joined the Department as medical director. Dr. Turen has responsibility for quality of medical care, medical protocols and oversight, and training for all EMS providers in the field.

Dr. Turen has 20 years experience in Orthopedic Surgery and more than 15 years in Orthopedic Traumatology at the University of Maryland's Shock Trauma Center. He is certified in Advanced Trauma Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. He is an Associate Professor of Orthopedics at the University Of Maryland School Of Medicine. Dr. Turen is Medical Director of the Maryland Fire & Rescue Institute. His past experience also includes volunteer firefighting in Maryland and New York State.



Firefighter Recruit Classes 338 and 339 ran more than 10 miles from the Training Academy to the Grimke Building part of their physical training.

## DC Government Moving Towards 100% Direct Deposit For Payroll

Changes are being made to the DC Government payroll system. In the near future, all DC government employees will receive their paychecks through direct deposit or through bank-issued payroll cards. Paper payroll checks will no longer be issued. December 6 is the target date for this transition.

In October, notices were sent to Fire/EMS employees who receive their pay on paper checks. These employees must sign up for direct deposit, establish a bank account, or apply for a payroll card. If you have questions about this payroll change, contact Acting Battalion Fire Chief Kenneth Jackson at (202) 673-3298.

## HIPAA TIP

TRAINING IS MANDATORY! Having trouble logging on to the HIPAA elearning system? Forgot your elearning password? Can't locate a training module? From now on, all technical issues with the HIPAA elearning system will be handled by the HIPAA Help Line. The Help Line is available

between 7:00am and 3:30pm, Monday through Friday. You can contact the HIPAA Training Specialist, Raj Kaur, at (202) 673-3155. You may also e-mail her directly at raj.kaur@dc.gov. Be sure to include the following information in your email to avoid potential delays: your first and last name, telephone number, and a brief but thorough description of the problem ("my password won't work"; or "I need to be enrolled in the NOPPs course"). Remember, knowledge is the key.

## Open Enrollment

This year's open enrollment period runs from November 8 through December 13, 2004. Open enrollment is the only time during the year, with limited exceptions, that you may:

- Change your health plan coverage in the District of Columbia Employee Health Benefits Program (DCEHBP) or the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP);



Lt. Timothy Jones E-19-3 could be called "Stork" after an incident October 16. Lt. Jones was called in to finish the shift of Sgt. Ron Kemp of Squad 3, who was injured in the dramatic rescue of three children in a fire on Elvans Road SE. As Lt. Jones gathered his gear at Engine 19, he heard a knock on the bay door. A man explained that his wife was giving birth. Lt. Jones, who was alone in the firehouse, immediately grabbed an O/B kit from the firehouse and ran to the car, where he found a woman and an infant with the umbilical cord still attached. Lt. Jones assessed the baby boy, made sure the infant was breathing properly. He assessed the mother, cleaned the baby and clamped and cut the cord. Both mother and baby after being transported by Medic 8 are doing fine. Congratulations to all!!!

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